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HUNGARIAN PLAN FULFILLMENT FOR 1954

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Industry

Socialist industry fulfilled its 1954 plan 101.4 percent. The ministries and other organizations of the socialist economic sector fulfilled their plans as follows (in percent):

Ministry of Metallurgy and Machine Industry	100.3
Ministry of Coal Mining	97.5
Ministry of Chemical Industry and Electricity	99.6
Ministry of Light Industry	101.9
Ministry of Food Industry	103.8
Industrial enterprises of the Ministry of Building	93.2
Industrial enterprises of the Ministry of Posts and Communications	105.7
Industrial enterprises of the National Forestry Directorate	97.9
Local industrial enterprises	104.9
Artisan cooperatives	113.2

In 1954, the production of socialist industry increased 3.1 percent over 1953. The production of industries under the ministries increased 0.3 percent over 1953; of the local industries, 27.4 percent; and of the artisan cooperative industries, 30.2 percent. The production of heavy industry in 1954 was 3.1 percent lower than in 1953; that of light industry, 9.5 higher; and that of the food industry, 12.2 percent higher. Production by artisans was double that of 1953. In 1954, the over-all production of industry, including that of artisans, increased 4.7 percent over 1953.

In spite of the fulfillment of the over-all plan of industry in 1954, there were lags in certain products. The Ministry of Coal Mining fell short of plan fulfillment by 650,000 tons of coal, and the Ministry of Building by 206,000 tons of cement. The Ministry of Metallurgy and Machine Industry had a plan deficit of 165,000 tons of open-hearth steel; the Ministry of Building, of 206,000 tons of cement and 170 million bricks; and the Ministry of Light Industry, of 1.2 million pairs of cotton stockings and 622,000 pairs of overalls.

The production of consumer goods in 1954 increased considerably. Socialist industry produced 13 percent more consumer goods than in 1953, and heavy industry 35.1 percent more. In 1954, production of the principal industrial articles was as follows (in percent of 1953):

Coal	103.4
Petroleum	143.9
Siemens-Martin steel	95.9

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Rolled steel	97.0
Harrows	622.0
Tractor plows	171.0
Woolen material	134.0
Shoes	124.6
Men's suits	142.4
Edible oil and fats	112.1
Butter	116.0
Soap	120.3
Confectionary goods	139.8
Steam engines	114.5
Freight hoists	115.9
Disk harrows	250.0
Nitrogen fertilizer	109.6
Phosphorus fertilizer	103.0
Cement	89.3
Bricks	83.8
Bicycles	127.7
Motorcycles	102.7
Sewing machines	116.1
Cotton material	108.4
Knitwear	132.8
Beer	118.0
Salami	107.0

Among the goods produced above plan by industry in 1954 were the following: 99,000 tons of petroleum, 9,700 harrows, 1,100 horse-drawn seeders, 172,000 square meters of plate glass, 7 million square meters of cotton material, 1.5 million square meters of silk material, 48,000 women's coats, 120,000 pairs of children's shoes, and 600 tons of soap.

Last year, a number of consumer goods improved in quality, for instance, carded wool material, silk, artificial silk stockings, suits, and boots. The assortment of certain consumer goods increased, for instance, shoes, suits, and overcoats. In 1954, industry produced 25-30 new models of men's and women's shoes, 40-45 new models of sandals, 30-35 new models of men's suits, and 60-70 new models of women's coats. In 1954, the manufacture of various new agricultural machines and consumer goods was started, including cultivators, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, material with a nylon and Perlon base, and new kinds of canned food.

During 1954, a number of new factories started production. Several of these represented important achievements of the Five-Year Plan, such as the blast furnace of the Stalin ironworks, with a capacity of 700 cubic meters, and the factory in Szolnok in which straw is used for the production of cellulose.

For providing more adequate food supplies to the population, the dairy plant of Debrecen was put into operation, as well as a number of bakeries in Szekesfehervar, Turkeve, Bazakerettye, Vamosmikola, etc. Many industries, especially those producing consumer goods, received modern safety and health equipment. However, the 1954 plan for such equipment was not completed and has been extended to 1955. Modern technical manufacturing methods were introduced in several branches of industry, but the development of industrial technique lagged. Production per capita in socialist industry in 1954 was 1.5 percent less than in 1953 but, in this respect, there was a noticeable improvement during the last months of the year. As a result of a decrease in productivity, some prices increased over 1953; for instance, the prices of coal and electricity. On the other hand, the prices of Csepel trucks, grain combines, penicillin, cellulose, edible oil, and soap decreased.

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Investments and Construction

In accordance with the 1954 plan, investments and construction decreased significantly. The amount spent on investments was 33 percent lower than in 1953, but there was a considerable increase in investments devoted directly to satisfying the needs of the population.

The proportion of investments related to agriculture and to social and cultural matters was increased, whereas the investments intended for heavy industry, the building industry, and communications were reduced. The state building industry fulfilled 93 percent of its production plan, and the building enterprises of the Ministry of Building fulfilled 99.3 percent of their plan. However, the cost of production in this industry did not drop.

The output of the building cooperatives in 1954 surpassed the 1953 output. However, these cooperatives still work primarily on public projects and have performed only a small amount of work for private citizens. In 1954, private citizens bought 344 million bricks (14 times the amount bought in 1953), 116,000 tons of lime (more than twice the amount bought in 1953), and 87,000 tons of cement (almost five times the amount bought in 1953). In order better to satisfy the needs of the population and the requirements of local construction, several thousand licenses were issued to artisans, and the allocation of building material supplies was improved.

The construction of dwellings was accelerated. In 1954, nearly 30,000 dwellings were completed, which is 65 percent more than in 1953. Several thousand dwellings are under construction. Twice as many dwellings were privately constructed in 1954 than in 1953. State construction of dwellings increased 30 percent over 1953. The dwelling-construction plan was not fulfilled, however.

Agriculture

In accordance with the decisions of the party and government, agriculture received important assistance during 1954. Agricultural investment in 1954 was 400 million forints greater than in 1953. Owing to bad weather conditions, bread-grain yields were smaller than in 1953. As compared to 1953, the average yield of bread grain in 1954 decreased by 22 percent; of barley, by 22.4 percent; and of oats, by 8.5 percent. The average yields per cadastral yoke [1.42 acres] for corn, potatoes, and sugar beets decreased only 3-4 percent. With the increased farming area, 250,000 quintals more corn and 2.6 million quintals more potatoes were harvested than in 1953. Although the area planted in rice was 1 1/2 times greater than that planted in 1953, the 1954 yield barely equaled that of 1953 because of plant diseases.

The production of onions and paprika substantially increased; that of onions greatly surpassed previous production. The area planted in onions was increased by 2,400 cadastral yokes [3,408 acres], and that of red peppers by 2,400 cadastral yokes [2,982 acres]. The average yield of red peppers was 62.5 quintals per cadastral yoke.

Twice as many grapevines were planted in 1954 under state supervision than were planted in 1953, and five times as many by independent farmers. Nearly four times as many orchards were planted in 1954 than in 1953.

In spite of these increases in area, only half the 1953 yield was realized in certain fruits during 1954. This was caused by unfavorable weather. Grape and wine production equaled that of 1953. During 1954, 7,700 more carloads of commercial fertilizer were used than in 1953. On independent farms, the amount of fertilizer available per cadastral yoke increased 60 percent. Fall plowing was done on an area 10 percent larger than in 1953. The total number of hogs in 1954 was 6.8 million, 20 percent more than in 1953. The horse, sheep, and poultry stock increased over that of 1953. Cattle livestock, however, has not increased.

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The agricultural producer cooperatives worked better in 1954 than in the preceding year. In 1954, the average number of work units completed by one producer cooperative worker was 265 whereas, in 1953, this figure was 234 work units. The average income of cooperative members was 24 percent higher than in 1953. State farms showed an important development in 1954. Milk production increased by 22.6 percent, eggs by 6.1 percent, and wool by 28.5 percent. In 1954, 108 million liters of milk, 18 million eggs, 672,000 fattened hogs, and 34,000 fattened cattle were produced.

In 1954, the area under irrigation increased 20 percent over 1953. This was mainly due to the opening of the Tiszalok dam. A section, about 60 kilometers long, of the eastern main canal has been completed. The mechanization of agriculture was vigorously pressed.

In 1954, 4,556 tractors, 371 combines, 950 threshers, 3,130 tractor plows, and 1,169 tractor-drawn seeders were produced for agriculture. However, the machine investment plan was not fulfilled, especially in tractor plows and cultivators.

Twice as many machines were repaired in 1954 as in 1953. State forestry enterprises completed their 1954 logging plan 110.2 percent. Approximately 86,000 cadastral yokes [122,120 acres] was afforested.

State collection of agricultural produce was not satisfactory. The produce collection plan, apart from sunflower seed, was not fulfilled.

Transport and Communications

In 1954, goods transported by railways, as calculated in ton-kilometers, decreased by 0.8 percent. River transport decreased by 1.3 percent, while goods transported on roads increased by 7.3 percent. The increase in goods transportation was due to an increase in the distance goods were shipped, not in the quantity of the goods shipped. Passenger transportation by motorbus increased 14 percent in cities and 26 percent for intercity travel. In Budapest, a trolley-car track 9 kilometers long was constructed.

To develop communications and transport, several bridges and roads were opened during 1954; for example, the Danube bridge at Komarom and the valley bridges of the highway between Budapest and Pecs. The stock of vehicles increased during the year; nevertheless, passenger transport was inadequate.

A television transmitter of 150 watts began test transmissions in Budapest. Large provincial towns such as Sztalinvaros and Miskolc received automatic telephone exchanges.

Consumer Goods Turnover

Retail trade in 1954 increased 21 percent over 1953. In 1954, the population bought 20 percent more butter, 57 percent more confectionary goods, and 19 percent more beer than in 1953. The increased demand for meat, lard, rice, eggs, and a few other goods, however, could not be satisfactorily met.

The supply of consumer goods produced by industry greatly increased in 1954. The increase was notable primarily in the sales of clothing, radio sets, and bicycles. In 1954, 182,000 radios (63,000 more than in 1953) and 122,000 bicycles (29,000 more than in 1953) were sold.

In 1954, sales of the following goods increased over 1953 as indicated (in percent): cotton material, 27; woolen material, 42; silk material, 37; confectionary goods, 45; and shoes 29.

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More than 2,000 state stores and 5,000 independent stores were opened during 1954. The private stores are licensed to sell vegetables, fruit, poultry, and tobacco. Deliveries to markets in large towns increased about 42 percent over 1953. The prices of poultry, eggs, and potatoes fell on the free market, while that of certain fruits and vegetables increased owing to the bad weather.

Vital Statistics, Employment, Wages, and Social and Cultural Gains

There were 16,000 more births in 1954 than in 1953. The mortality rate was the lowest on record. The infant mortality rate was 15 percent lower than in 1953, and was the lowest ever recorded. Hungary's population increased by 116,000 in 1954; this was the largest annual increase since 1914. Hungary's total population at the end of 1954 was 9,750,000.

The average number of workers and employees in the national economy was 2,435,000 in 1954, or 25,000 more than in 1953. In 1954, as in preceding years, there was no unemployment in Hungary. In fact, a labor shortage was experienced in the building industry, in the mines, and in agriculture.

In 1954, 70 percent of the national income was used directly to meet the requirements of the population, as compared to only 60 percent in 1953. As a result of the increase in average incomes and of price reduction during the year, real wages and salaries increased by an average of 15 percent over 1953.

The income of the peasantry increased considerably as a result of measures taken by the government. Owing to the increase in pensions introduced in the second quarter of 1954, the income of retired and pensioned people rose by 25 percent. Social benefits paid in 1954 were 29 percent greater than in 1953.

The system of hospitals, nurseries, and kindergartens was greatly extended, as was that of the general schools. There were 4,500 more hospital beds in 1954 than in 1953. Four new clinics were finished. The hours worked by specialists at these clinics increased by 10 percent over the previous year, and the hours worked by factory doctors by 11 percent. In spite of this, specialist clinics and certain hospital departments were overcrowded.

In 1954, 70 new nurseries were established. The capacity of the nurseries increased by 4,900. Free layettes were given to mothers at an expense to the state of approximately 90 million forints.

In 1954, 30 kindergartens and day nurseries were opened, with a total capacity of 1,400; 80 general schools, with a total of 190 classrooms; and 33 cultural centers, with a total capacity of 8,000. During the year, 102,000 students completed the 8 years of general school and more than 26,000 passed the final examination.

In 1954, nearly 20 million copies of 2,750 books were published. The number of copies of literary works published increased by 13 percent; and of publications for youth, by 29 percent.

During 1954, 250 new motion-picture theaters were opened. The number of motion-picture theater admissions was 98 million, 25 million more than in 1953. The number of legitimate-theater admissions was over 6 million.

The number of radio-license holders increased by 190,000. This brings the total number of radio-license holders to 1,270,000. By the end of 1954, there was a total of 4,000 local libraries and 1,900 local cultural centers.

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